

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 SPC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 INRE-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 /054 W

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O 071349Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5832

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 4576

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES, NU

SUBJ: LOPEZ' ATTENDANCE AT CA PRESIDENTS' MEETING

REF: MANAGUA 4758

1. LOPEZ DOES ACTUALLY HAVE VERY BUSY PERIOD SCHEDULED FOR UPCOMING DAYS, BUT THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS WHICH MAY DICTATE HIS RELUCTANCE TO SCHEDULE - OR EVEN ACCEDE - TO SUMMIT MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2.HIS SCHEDULE INCLUDES APPEARANCE AT ANNUAL ZAMORANO PAN AMERICAN SCHOOL GRADUATION ON DEC 8, IN WHICH HE WILL SERVE AS PATRON AS HIS PROTEGE MIN OF NATURAL RESOURCES ESCOTO, WHO IS FIRST HONDURAN MINISTER GRADUATE OF SCHOOL, MAKES ADDRESS. THIS APPEARANCE IS DOUBTLESS INTENDED TO UNDERLINE LOPEZ' PREOCCUPATION WITH AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAY SERVE AS BASIS FOR SOME POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT.

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2. LOPEZ IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DELEGATION ON DEC 10 IN ORDER TO ANSWER A BILL OF COMPLAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH LATTER PRESENTED TO HIM ON DEC 5. COMPLAINTS OF NON-CONSULTATION WERE PRETTY SEVERE, AND WE HEAR THAT GROUP DEMANDED FIRING OF MINISTERS FONSECA, ACOSTA, RIVERA AND BENNATON. GOH IS GIVING CONCENTRATED ATTENTION TO REPLY TO GROUP WHICH UNDERSTANDABLY HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION IN CABINET. LOPEZ IS EXPECTED TO CALM MATTER DOWN BY INVITING PRO-GOVERNMENT ORIENTED BUSINESSMEN (GABRIEL MEJIA AND OTHERS) FROM SAN PEDRO TO DEC MEETING AND BY TELLING PRIVATE SECTOR THAT GOH WILL ASK FOR THEIR ADVICE ON DEVELOPMENT PLAN BEFORE IT IS PROMULGATED ON JAN 1.

4. MEANWHILE, GOH AND HIGHER MILITARY OFFICERS ARE NURSING DEVELOPMENT PLAN (THE FIRST IN HONDURAN HISOTRY, WHICH SLIPPED FROM DEADLINE OF DEC 4 TO JAN 1) THROUGH FINAL INTERNAL MASSAGES, PRIOR TO CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS CONSULTATION PROMISES TO BE BRUSING.

5. LOPEZ AND GOH ORDER OF PRIORITIES DURING LAST TEN DAYS, PROBABLY IN THIS ORDER HAVE BEEN: (A) GASOLINE CRISIS, SOLVED ON DEC 5; (B) DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ITS RECEPTION BY PRIVATE SECTOR, LABOR AND PEASANTS; AND (C) SALVADORAN AFFAIR. LOPEZ IS THUS IN HIS OWN WAY NOW ENTERED UPON PERIOD OF INTENSIFIED DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH BY ANALOGY IS AS CRUCIAL TO HIM, IF NOT MORE SO, AS SOME OF HIS NEIGHBOR COLLEAGUES PROFESS THEIR UPCOMING ELECTIONS TO BE. BUT HIS CONTINGENCY IS UPON HIM, AND THEIRS IS LATER.

6. WE ALSO DOUBT WHETHER LOPEZ WILL ATTEND OR SCHEDULE NEW SUMMIT MEETING WITHOUT FULL DISCUSSIONS WITH BATRES, BASED ON LATTER'S TALKS WITH WASHINGTON AND ARENALES. AS OF YESTERDAY, BATRES HAD NOT RETURNED TO TEGUS, AND WE DO NOT KNOW HIS SCHEDULE AT THIS WRITING. SANCHEZ

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